

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the owner's bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

In order to properly serve the public, there ought to be FAIR BALANCE. For example, if a film pertaining to Mr. Kerry's Vietnam days is to aired, then a film pertaining to Mr. Bush's Vietnam-era days should also be aired. A film for each candidate covering the same wartime period broadcast back-to-back or same time-slot on consecutive days, equally promoted, would be an example of fair balance.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.